

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05

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R 230758Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8485

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EAID CH TP AO

SUBJECT: SAO TOME AND PRC DIFFER ON ANGOLA

1. ALTHOUGH THE PRC WAS PRESUMABLY WELL AWARE THAT
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE WAS ONE OF THE OAU MEMBERS WHO
HAD ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE SOVIET-BACKED MPLA-DOMINATED
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, PRC VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN
MADE A STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET ROLE IN
ANGOLA. SPEAKING AT THE WELCOMING BANQUET IN PEKING
FOR THE SAO TOME PRESIDENT, MANUEL PINTO DA COSTA, LI
CLAIMED THE ANGOLAN SITUATION WAS "WHOLLY THE MAKING
OF THAT SUPERPOWER, THE SELF-STYLED 'NATURAL ALLY' OF
THE AFRICAN PEOPLE". PERHAPS TO LEND A LITTLE EVEN-
HANDEDNESS TO HIS TREATMENT, LI ADDED THAT THE "THE
OTHER SUPERPOWER WOULD NOT BE LEFT BEHIND IN ITS CONTENTION
FOR HEGEMONY" AND CONDEMNED THE "NOTORIOUS SOUTH
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AFRICA" FOR HAVING "POKED ITS HAND INTO ANGOLA."

2. IN RESPONSE, PRESIDENT DA COSTA WHILE CONDEMNING ALL AGGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA MENTIONED ONLY SOUTH AFRICA BY NAME FOR "DIRECT AGGRESSION" AGAINST THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND STATED CLEARLY THAT HIS PARTY AND GOVERNMENT "FULLY SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA". WHILE NCNA CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF DA COSTA'S REMARKS, IN ITS SUMMATION OF THE BANQUET TOASTS, IT DELETED THE ANGOLAN PORTION.

3. DA COSTA'S RESPONSE ON THE ANGOLAN SITUATION CAME AFTER HE HAD MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WITH A NOD TO PEKING'S NORMAL PROPAGANDA LINE ON SELF-RELIANCE, DA COSTA STATED THAT TO "SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING OUR PEOPLE TODAY ESSENTIALLY DEPENDS ON THEIR WORK." HE THEN ADDED THAT "IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT AID AND SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES CAN BE DECISIVIE AT THIS INITIAL STAGE". IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER PEKING CONSIDERS DA COSTA'S STATEMENTS ON ANGOLA IN DETERMINING JUST HOW FORTHCOMING THEY WILL BE ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THE DA COSTA VISIT IS BEING HOSTED BY THIRD-RANKED VICE PREMIER (AND ECONOMIC SPECIALIST) LI HSIEN-NIEN, INDICATING THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL LIKELY BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. ALREADY, TALKS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CARLOS DIAS DA CRACA, AND PRC HEALTH MINISTER LIU HSIANG-PING, AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS (I.E. AID) VICE MINISTER CHEN MU-HUA. CHINESE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSISTANCE IS A LOW COST, BUT HIGH VISIBILITY FORM OF AID WHICH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED FAIRLY RAPIDLY.
CROSS

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